

Message Text

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R 132252Z DEC 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 274254

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, MT

SUBJECT: EXCESS PROPERTY FOR MALTA

REF: A. STATE 271315 B. STATE 268418

1. MALTESE DELEGATION DEPARTED WASHINGTON DECEMBER 11 FOR NEW YORK WITHOUT MEETING STATE OR AID PERSONNEL FOR RECAP OF VISIT. DURING BRIEF STOPOVER HERE, HOWEVER, THEY CALLED ON ADMIRAL GERHARD, OIC OF NAVY'S SECURITY ASSISTANCE DIVISION. MALTESE PRESSED ONCE MORE FOR A CATALOGUE OF EXCESS MILITARY EQUIPMENT, RE-STATED THEIR INTEREST IN ACQUIRING A 40 TON CRANE AND DUMP TRUCKS (SEE REFTEL A), SOUNDED OUT THE ADMIRAL ON PROSPECTS FOR EXTENDING THE EXCESS PROPERTY AGREEMENT BEYOND DECEMBER 31, 1974.

2. NAVAL OFFICIALS WERE UNDERSTANDABLY BEWILDERED BY THIS PRESENTATION AND SOUGHT COMMENTS FROM STATE DESK ON THE MATTERS RAISED. WE ASSURED NAVY THAT, CONTRARY TO IMPRESSION GIVEN BY MALTESE, STATE/AID HAVE DISCUSSED MALTA'S EXCESS PROPERTY REQUIREMENTS AT LENGTH WITH THE DELEGATION. TENECH OF MALTESE EMBASSY WHO FOLLOWED UP NEXT DAY ON THE

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MEETING WAS SUBSEQUENTLY REFERRED BACK TO STATE DESK WHICH

REITERATED THAT, ACCORDING TO DOD, A CRANE AND DUMP TRUCKS
ARE NOT AVAILABLE, NOR IS THERE A CATALOGUE OF EXCESS
EQUIPMENT. EXTENSION OF THE EXCESS PROPERTY AGREEMENT

WAS NOT RAISED.

3. FYI - WHILE THE MALTESE DELEGATES WERE IN THE US,
THEY WERE AFFORDED MAXIMUM COOPERATION IN VIEWING EXCESS
EQUIPMENT AND THEY WERE BRIEFED EXHAUSTIVELY ON THE
MODALITIES AND PROSPECTS FOR ACQUIRING IT. IF THE RESULTS
OF THEIR VISIT FALL SHORT OF MINTOFF'S EXPECTATIONS (AND
WE GATHER THIS MAY BE THE CASE) IT WILL NOT HAVE BEEN
FOR LACK OF COOPERATION ON OUR SIDE OR LACK OF EFFORT ON
THEIRS. THEY WERE DESCRIBED BY AN OFFICIAL WITH A DECADE
OF EXPERIENCE IN DEALING WITH FOREIGN NATIONALS SEEKING
EXCESS PROPERTY AS THE MOST RESOURCEFUL AND ENTERPRISING
GENTLEMEN HE HAD EVER ENCOUNTERED. KISSINGER

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